

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

Abstract of the Disclosure

An operating and display unit (1) for switching devices in a motor vehicle having at least one operating element and having a symbol display field (3', 5', 7', 9', 11') which is associated with the operating element (3, 5, 7, 9, 11), is arranged in a fixed manner at a geometrically determined point in relation to the operating element (3, 5, 7, 9, 11), and has the purpose of displaying a symbol which is assigned to the device to be switched. The operating and display unit (1) is distinguished by the fact that the symbol display field (3', 5', 7', 9', 11') is embodied using black panel technology.